

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON U.S. NUCLEAR WARHEADS IN EUROPE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD

1. POLITICAL COMMENTATOR VICTOR MAYEVSKIY IN PRAVDA MAY 23 USES
SATIRICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO MAKE HEAVY-
HANDED POINTS ON THE INADEQUACIES OF U.S. STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WAR-
HEADS IN EUROPE. CITING THE RECENT REPORT BY SENATORS BAKER AND
PASTORE TO THE JOINT ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS, MAYEVSKIY'S
BUSINESSMEN SAY THAT THE U.S. HAS 8,000 SUCH WARHEADS IN
EUROPE, AT LEAST SOME OF WHICH COULD BE STOLEN WITH THE GREATEST
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OF EASE. THEY DISCUSS STORAGE OF THE WEAPONS "IN BASEMENTS UNDER

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS," AND CONSIDER WHAT ADVANTAGES THEY MIGHT GAIN FROM HAVING SEVERAL SUCH WARHEADS. THEY DECIDE THAT SINCE "ALL KINDS OF WEAPONS ARE FOR SALE" IN THE U.S., WHY NOT START A BUSINESS IN NUCLEAR WARHEADS?

2. MAYEVSKIY ENDS HIS LITTLE STORY WITH HALF-HEARTED ASSURANCE TO HIS READERS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE PENTAGON, STORAGE PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED, AND "IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MISTER BROWN WILL BE ABLE TO GRAB OFF ANY WARHEADS TO GIVE TO MISTER SMITH." BUT HE CONCLUDES THAT IS DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHICH POSES THE GREATER DANGER: THE WARHEADS THEMSELVES OR THE "PENTAGON HEADS" RESPONSIBLE FOR STORING THEM PROPERLY. STOESEL

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